

University changes academic calendar

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Chief Reporter | @OluwatoyinKeji

The 2019-2020 academic calendar contains many changes including longer breaks, an inter-session period and semesters running longer.

Registrar Terri Vogel said the fall semester will start earlier and Thanksgiving break will be longer. Vogel compared the fall semester of 2017 and 2018.

“It (the calendar) is a result of a focus group that we conducted with faculty and students,” Vogel said. “This calendar implements some of the elements that were requested. We’ve taken stakeholders’ consideration into requests and we try to do the best we can.”

Usually Northwest begins classes on the last Monday of August, classes will start Wednesday, Aug. 21 this coming academic year.

Instead of Thanksgiving break beginning on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, it will be the Friday before, Nov. 22 and concludes Dec. 2. This allows students to have a week-long break.

Political Science Professor Brian Hesse said the extension of Thanksgiving break helps students and faculty with traveling during the time period. Instead of students and faculty staying for Monday and Tuesday they can leave the weekend before.

SEE CALENDAR | A5

Campus library to add solar panels

RACHEL ADAMSON
Campus News Editor | @rachadamsonn

In an effort toward energy saving measures and sustainability, the University will be piloting the use of solar technology through solar panels.

This summer, 50 365 watt solar panel modules will be placed on the B.D. Owens Library roof. The solar panels will produce 18.25 kilowatts of energy for the library.

Sustainability Coordinator John Viau said the solar panels will power a floor of the library and all of its outside lights.

“It almost seems ridiculous that I’m excited about 18.25 kilowatts generating on campus when we consume as much electricity as we do,” Viau said. “However, as sustainability coordinator, my hope is that this is our foot in the door. Because there are some incentives out there, we can get people on board with a solar project.”

The University’s power provider, Kansas City Power and Light Company, has a solar power rebate program, encouraging the use of solar technology. Northwest is a part of that program, receiving rebate payouts of 50 cents per watt before June 30 and 25 cents per watt after July 1.

“It is the first step,” Viau said. “Is it going to knock down our main campus meter? No, but it should take care of a pretty healthy portion of the library. It’s a big step in making that building more efficient, but it’s a small step in our move towards solar power and renewables.”

Assistant Vice President of Facility Services and Capital Programs Allen Mays said working with KCP&L in the solar technology program gives the University an opportunity to turn back the dial to help save some energy.

SEE PANELS | A5



Northwest men’s basketball coach Ben McCollum led the team to its sixth consecutive MIAA title.

AMANDA WISTUBA | NW MISSOURIAN

SEEKING PERFECTION

Men sneak past Western, eye undefeated regular season

ANDREW WEGLEY
Sports Editor | @andrew_wegley21

Northwest men’s basketball willed its way to a 70-68 victory over Missouri Western Feb. 26, clawing through 40 minutes of action en route to another win.



The Bearcats (28-0, 18-0 MIAA) entered the contest 40 minutes away from cutting down the nets in celebration of their sixth-straight conference and two victories away from a perfect season.

On the surface, Western (12-17, 6-12 MIAA) didn’t seem to pose a viable threat to Northwest’s perfect record, nor did the Griffons seem

likely to play spoiler ahead of the Bearcats’ imminent post-game festivities.

Instead, the Griffons gave the Bearcats fits, holding Northwest to a 44.2 field goal percentage and a 23.3 three-point percentage. The two-point victory was the closest for the Bearcats since their first game of the season.

Still, the Bearcats were able to adjust and eke out their 28th consecutive victory in front of a crowd of more than 2,100 people.

“It felt like a regional game with the atmosphere,” senior swingman Joey Witthus said. “Just to be able to battle through it, and you know we didn’t play very well, but we came out with a win, and that’s

what’s important.”

Witthus scored 29 points in the tightly-contested game, a mark that led the team. Freshman Diego Bernard added 18 points and a career-high 12 rebounds, good for his first career double-double. The performance helped Northwest seal the rivalry game win.

For the Bearcats, the win over Western meant no more than any win before; rather, it was used as preparation for what lies ahead. With the MIAA in hand, the Bearcats are positioned to host the central region in the NCAA Division II tournament.

SEE BASKETBALL | A9

Organization to serve in Carolinas

KENDRICK CALFEE
Chief Reporter | @KendrickCalfee

Northwest Alternative Spring Break is set to travel to the Carolinas, helping in relief efforts from Hurricane Florence for its yearly service trip this semester.

The 2019 trip is dedicated to hurricane relief in North and South Carolina. Members of the organization will help with home restorations, volunteer at local after-school programs, food banks, animal shelters and other areas in need of service.

The selection process for what trip is chosen involves Northwest ASB’s involvement in Community Collaborations International.

CCI is a lead organization that supports and promotes the expansion of alternative break programs. They place volunteers from more than 200 universities and colleges in the U.S. and internationally.

Through CCI, Northwest ASB was given options of placement and the executive board decided on what trip fit them best based on price and location.

Northwest ASB President Jessica Bloustine says hurricane relief has been their focus because of the present need of help in those areas.

“We will be working with disaster management and beach cleanup, along with flooded homes,” Bloustine said. “Those kind of projects are what we are looking to help with this year.”

ASB participates in the fall and spring organization fairs for student outreach. Even with its recruitment efforts, the organization has been low in numbers in recent years. The executive board is made up of second-year members who



MADI NOLTE | NW MISSOURIAN

Junior Jacob Nine, playing for Sigma Tau Gamma’s team, takes aim at an opponent during Alternative Spring Break’s dodgeball tournament Feb. 23.

are dedicated to the growth of the organization.

Northwest ASB’s mission is to expose students to diverse cultures and traditions through service and activism, immersing students in unique environments. Bloustine recounts connections she has made through the organization.

“These people—I would have never seen on a regular day on campus,” Bloustine said. “We’re all from different majors and backgrounds. It’s really cool to connect through community service.”

Northwest ASB fundraising

board member Delaney Smail said there hasn’t been a situation where they had to decline an applicant.

“We usually get about 20 applications, and we haven’t had to turn anyone away,” Smail said.

The organization typically gets around 20 members, including new and returning members plus those on the executive board to take part in the trip each spring semester. They are hoping the number of members will increase within the next few years.

In the past, Northwest ASB has been to Washington D.C., New

Orleans, Florida and other sites in need of volunteer service. The type of service they take part in depends on where they decide to go and what kind of help is needed that year.

The cost of the 2019 trip per person is \$650. Students are given the option to fundraise for their part of the cost with fundraising events throughout the year. In the fall, they sold koozies at Bearcat football games and asked local businesses, friends and family for donations.

SEE SPRING BREAK | A5

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Projects underway at R.T. Wright Farm

MASON BIGLER
Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

Three active projects are in motion at the R.T. Wright Farm as it works to fulfill the University's Agricultural Science Master Plan.

The three projects are farm manager house replacement, road expansion and a redesigned entrance. Each serve as pre-projects to help get things ready for the Agricultural Learning Center.

Northwest Board of Regents said the original estimate for all three projects together was \$1 million. Due to MoDOT specifications, an extra \$200,000 has been added to the estimate.

With help from the Maryville school district's Northwest Technical School, the University is building a new house to replace the old house of the farm manager. The new house will include three bedrooms, two bathrooms, a two car garage and a full basement. Budget estimates made for the project are unknown.

Assistant Vice President of Facility Services and Capital Programs Allen Mays said the new house should be finished in August or September.

"It is anticipated that we will be having a grand opening sometime maybe this summer, maybe in early fall," Mays said. "We are probably about 75 percent complete with the project."

The entrance improvements to the farm include the addition of a new turn lane leading into the farm from U.S. Route 71. The University has signed two contracts with Scott Gann Construction for entrance improvements and road expansion. The contract for the entrance improvements states the price for the project at \$390,084.

Mays said the winter weather has caused difficulties with all of the projects, but the entrance improvements especially.

"(The entrance improvement) is 15 percent complete," Mays said. "We will see more activity once this weather passes. (There is) lots of snow and things hindering the contractor's progress."

Mays said the weather has not majorly set back any of the projects.

"(The) contractor is working at a pretty good pace," Mays said. "I think they had an advantage at the start. So as far as how far we are set back based on weather, I would not say too much."

The road expansion and site improvements include the addition of a new interior road leading to the core of the farm, new signage and fencing by the farm entrance and preparations for the building of the new Agricultural Learning Center.

FULL STORY ONLINE:
NWMISSOURI NEWS.COM



The new R.T. Wright Farmhouse (right) is 70 percent finished; the old farmhouse (left) will be demolished following completion. This is one of three projects at the R.T. Wright Farm, all working towards the Agricultural Sciences Master Plan.

SUBMITTED

Student Senate committee tables minimum wage fee

SAMANTHA COLLISON
Chief Reporter | @SammieCollison

The Student Senate fees committee decided not to propose any fees concerning raising University minimum wage during its meeting Feb. 18.

The University raised the minimum wage of student employees to match the state increase in January, which was paid for by rearranging the Student Employment budget internally.

However, the Missouri minimum wage will continue to increase by \$0.85 each year until 2023. If the University were to match these increases, Student Senate would have

to pass a fee to increase the Student Employment budget.

During its second meeting, the fees committee discussed whether it was in the best interests of students to continue to pass a fee to raise the University minimum wage. The committee decided it was not a pressing matter to address at this time.

Students, including senior Alyssa Lincoln, discussed their experiences working both on and off campus, and how the majority of their income comes from their off-campus jobs.

Lincoln said students working 20 hours per week in an on-campus job at minimum wage could pay rent in most off-campus housing in Maryville and is "sufficient and sta-

ble for the time being." She said the trade-off for higher wages is off-campus jobs lack some conveniences that on-campus jobs provide.

"I believe that student employment comes with a variety of benefits that sweeten the deal for these positions," Lincoln said. "The benefits of working an on-campus job make up for the lower hourly wage than one may find off-campus, a sacrifice that students pay to receive these benefits."

Junior Taylor Moore, who also works at Dairy Queen and at a non-profit political organization, said she is comfortable being paid less for her on-campus job in the residence halls because it's easier.

"My desk job is easier because I am able to do homework while working the desk for Residential Life," Moore said. "I also rarely have residents come to the desk, and I am only responsible for easy tasks."

Tower Suites Assistant Complex Director Priyanka Khanal said since international students can't work off campus without a special visa, it's not fair to the University to not raise minimum wage with the state rate.

"As an international student, the only source of income for me is my school employment," Khanal said. "Yes, the University works with students while scheduling according to our timing, but as an international student our options are very limited

and our school bills is comparatively higher than domestic students."

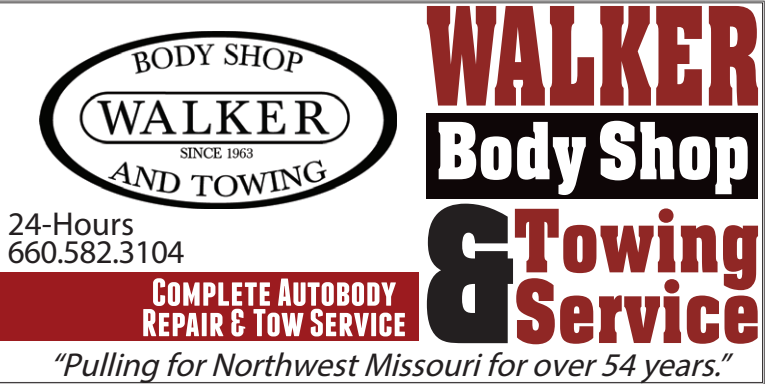
Khanal said she would like to hear more about the committee's reasoning behind the decision before passing judgment, but noted international students have their hands tied with rising tuition and fees and the University in control of wages.

Vice President of Student Affairs Matt Baker said he will continue to communicate with Student Senate about the issue, but would like to bring it back to Student Senate at a later time, especially given the ongoing discussion about lowering the co-curricular fee.



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Sunshine Law in jeopardy under proposed legislation

KATIE STEVENSON
Community News Editor | @KatieSStevenson

A new bill has been introduced to the Missouri Senate which would weaken the Sunshine Law. If passed the bill would allow government officials to be less transparent with their constituents.

The Sunshine Law is an open meeting and record law. According to Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt, the Sunshine Law is "The public policy of this state that meetings, records, votes, actions, and deliberations of public governmental bodies be open to the public unless otherwise provided by law."

The law is meant to promote openness and transparency within Missouri's government.

House members approved changes to the state law Feb. 4 with House Bill 445. These changes would make communications between public officials at all levels of government and their constituents largely immune to records requests.

Senior instructor of communication and mass media Jason Offutt said the Sunshine Law is important as it allows the public to know what is going on with the government.

"If it wasn't for us having the Sunshine Law, elected government bodies, anything from the hospital board to the school board to city council to state legislators, would be able to ban regular citizens, including the press of course, from regular meetings," Offutt said. "They would also have the authority to keep the minutes of those meetings from the press and the general public."

In an interview with the Herald-Free Press, by Rep. Nick Schroer, R-Mo, said the amendment was created to give privacy to governmental officials and let them decide what information the press receives.

**FULL STORY ONLINE:
NWMISSOURI NEWS.COM**

Moms Demand Action hears three bills limiting gun rights

MAKENZI TURLEY
Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

Moms Demand Action discussed how guns impact domestic violence during its meeting Feb. 26.

Moms Demand Action is an activist group that educates people about gun laws, how to protect children from guns and other issues that involve guns. The group focuses on changing gun laws while supporting the Second Amendment.

Meghann Kosman is a court and victim advocate for the Maryville Children and Family Center. Kosman spoke to the group, explaining that there are three different bills relating to gun laws within domestic violence cases in Missouri that have not yet been passed.

Senate Bill 41 would make people who have committed crimes or misdemeanors of sexual assault and domestic violence, or who have an order of protection against them, unable to purchase a gun or have firearms in their possession. Senate Bill 94 and House Bill 163 also reflect domestic violence misdemeanors and protection orders.

Moms Demand Action was originally started by Shannon Watts after the Sandy Hook Elementary school shooting. Moms Demand Action is a subset of Everytown for Gun Safety. Since then, it has grown from a Facebook group to having an established chapter in every state.

Maryville resident Jessica Piper started the Maryville chapter, one of the several chapters in Missouri. Piper was originally a member of the North Kansas City, Missouri, Moms Demand Action chapter before starting the chapter in Maryville.

Piper said, she found a lot of like-minded people who felt the same about gun laws in Missouri. After the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting, she decided to create her own chapter in Maryville.

"People perceive Moms Demand as anti-gun, and we are not," Piper said. "We're helping support the Second Amendment by keeping people from dying. We need to work with gun owners."

Moms Demand Action not only discusses gun violence and children; it also touches on other factors that gun violence could effect. Right now, the group is focusing on domestic violence and how lenient gun laws can contribute to domestic violence cases.



SUBMITTED

Local moms band together to form an activist group working toward reducing gun violence in America.

tic violence cases.

As Kosman spoke, she touched on statistics of sexual assault in the United States, sexual assault charges, myths of false accusations, the legal process that victims go through after sexual assault, statistics of stalking, domestic violence within relationships and gun violence in domestic relationships.

"I'm not here to talk politically about partisan issues," Kosman said. "I'm here to talk about a bipartisan issue that is for the safety of domestic and sexual violence victims. This isn't anything against the Second Amendment."

Students Demand Action has similar goals as Moms Demand Action; the only difference is the group is student ran. The student organization is in the works but is not yet official.

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Sex education necessary for students safety



I don't think I've ever seen my mom more shocked than when I told her, the summer before my sophomore year at Northwest, I did not know what STDs or STIs were.

Don't get me wrong—I knew the anagrams stood for sexually transmitted diseases and infections, respectfully, but I didn't know how to recognize them, or what scary names like "gonorrhea" and "chlamydia" actually meant. I didn't even know how to use a condom.

Unfortunately, I was one of many students whose sex education was threadbare at best. The U.S. doesn't have a uniform curriculum for teaching sexual health—only about half of the states, in fact, require public schools to teach it.

This is particularly disturbing when, according to the CDC, 40 percent of U.S. high school students have engaged in sexual intercourse. Teenagers these days are seriously undereducated when it comes to sex and healthy relationships. When they do receive proper sex education, much of the information can do more harm than good,

such as in the case of abstinence-only education.

Many believe practicing abstinence is the only foolproof way of avoiding unwanted pregnancies and the transmission of STDs/STIs. However, sex education promoting abstinence as the only option is increasingly ineffective.

Many students who receive this form of "education" still end up sexually active, and the program itself can reinforce negative gender stereotypes, withhold medically accurate information and undermine public health programs, according to Columbia University. All these programs do is shame students for exploring their sexuality and leave them without the knowledge to protect themselves and their partners.

Even when abstinence is not at the heart of the education students receive, there are still gaps in the information that can be equally as harmful.

Out of the 24 states that require sex education in public school curriculums, including the District of Columbia, eight included discussions about healthy relationships, while nine included information on sexual assault and the importance of consent.

**FULL STORY ONLINE:
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM**

PETA disrespectful of Steve Irwin death



People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, commonly known as PETA, once again found itself in a ridiculous and heated controversy. This time it involved the late, and much loved, conservationist Steve Irwin.

Sparks flew Feb. 22 as PETA commented about the Google Doodle that was created to celebrate what would have been Irwin's 57th birthday, tweeting "#SteveIrwin was killed while harassing a ray; he dangled his baby while feeding a crocodile & wrestled wild animals who were minding their own business. The #GoogleDoodle sends a dangerous, fawning message. Wild animals are entitled to be left alone in their natural habitats."

Herein lies the problem. PETA not only misunderstood Irwin's mission while he was alive but also misconstrued how he died and degraded a man who cannot defend himself anymore.

Irwin may not have been perfect, he was human after all, but PETA was wrong in so many ways to defame his image, especially with its past history.

Irwin was an advocate for conservation, an animal lover, a beloved television personality and an educator. He had a deep passion for wildlife including those who had certain prejudices attached such as

alligators, snakes and lizards.

He even worked in the East Coast Crocodile Management Program where he captured more than 100 crocodiles, all which were relocated to sanctuaries or less populated areas in an effort to reduce crocodile hunting, according to Advocacy for Animals.

Watching Irwin wrestle with alligators and handle snakes in front of a camera was not just for the camera, he genuinely loved getting close to animals. The demonstrations he performed at Australia Zoo, and oftentimes on camera, were his way to educate the masses on what not to do in crocodile territory, according to a 60 Minutes farewell tribute to Irwin. He also wished to show the wildlife's power, beauty and uniqueness as well.

The crazy part about PETA attacking Irwin is that they both advocated for the education on animals whether livestock or wildlife.

The other major problem is that PETA stayed quiet about Steve Irwin until recently when Google celebrated and paid tribute to him. Steve Irwin died in 2006 when the barb of a stingray hit his chest.

PETA is well-known for its distinctly disturbing ads often portraying naked or bound women in situations mimicking ways in which animals are abused. I wouldn't put it beyond them to use the Google Doodle of Irwin as a way to stir the pot.

On PETA's website, it even talks about why it uses controversial tactics. It states that it tries to make its "actions colorful and controversial" to grab media attention

in hopes of spreading "the message of kindness to animals." PETA even equates its success to this tactic.

PETA and Irwin both face controversies, just with different ways of getting people's attention. PETA does it through grotesque ad campaigns and blown-out controversies, while Irwin put himself in danger; both doing this in hopes of educating people.

Also, while PETA may claim Irwin's actions contradicted his teachings, many people have pointed out the hypocrisy on Twitter.

In 2010, 84 percent of the animals PETA took in were killed within 24 hours, according to the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. A mere 1.5 percent of dogs and cats reportedly found an actual home.

Eight years later and the number of euthanized animals overall has only dropped to about 71 percent, according to VDACS 2018 report. That means they have an average 84 percent kill rate.

Since 1998, PETA has put down almost 40,000 animals, according to VDACS.

So 40,000 of PETA's animals were euthanized for being "too far gone and unadoptable," according to its website.

Not only that, but PETA co-founder Ingrid Newkirk doesn't even believe in people keeping pets, saying, "Pet ownership is an absolutely abysmal situation brought about by human manipulation."

**FULL STORY ONLINE:
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM**

OUR VIEW:

Strike down new bill, public has right to information

The public has the right to an open government because all citizens are affected by the decisions government officials make. The government represents the people, but limiting public access to information minimizes their say.

The Missouri Senate was introduced to a new bill which would threaten the public's right to a transparent government after it passed in the House.

Rep. Nick Schroer, R-Mo, first proposed the bill which would exempt most of the records from being available to the public.

In an interview with the Herald-Free Press, Schroer said the amendment was created to give privacy to governmental officials and let them decide what information the press receives.

This would limit and weaken the Sunshine Law which is an open meetings and records law.

With the Sunshine Law, the press and the public can attend all open meetings held by a public governmental body. A journal or minutes must be kept of any votes taken in both open and closed meetings.

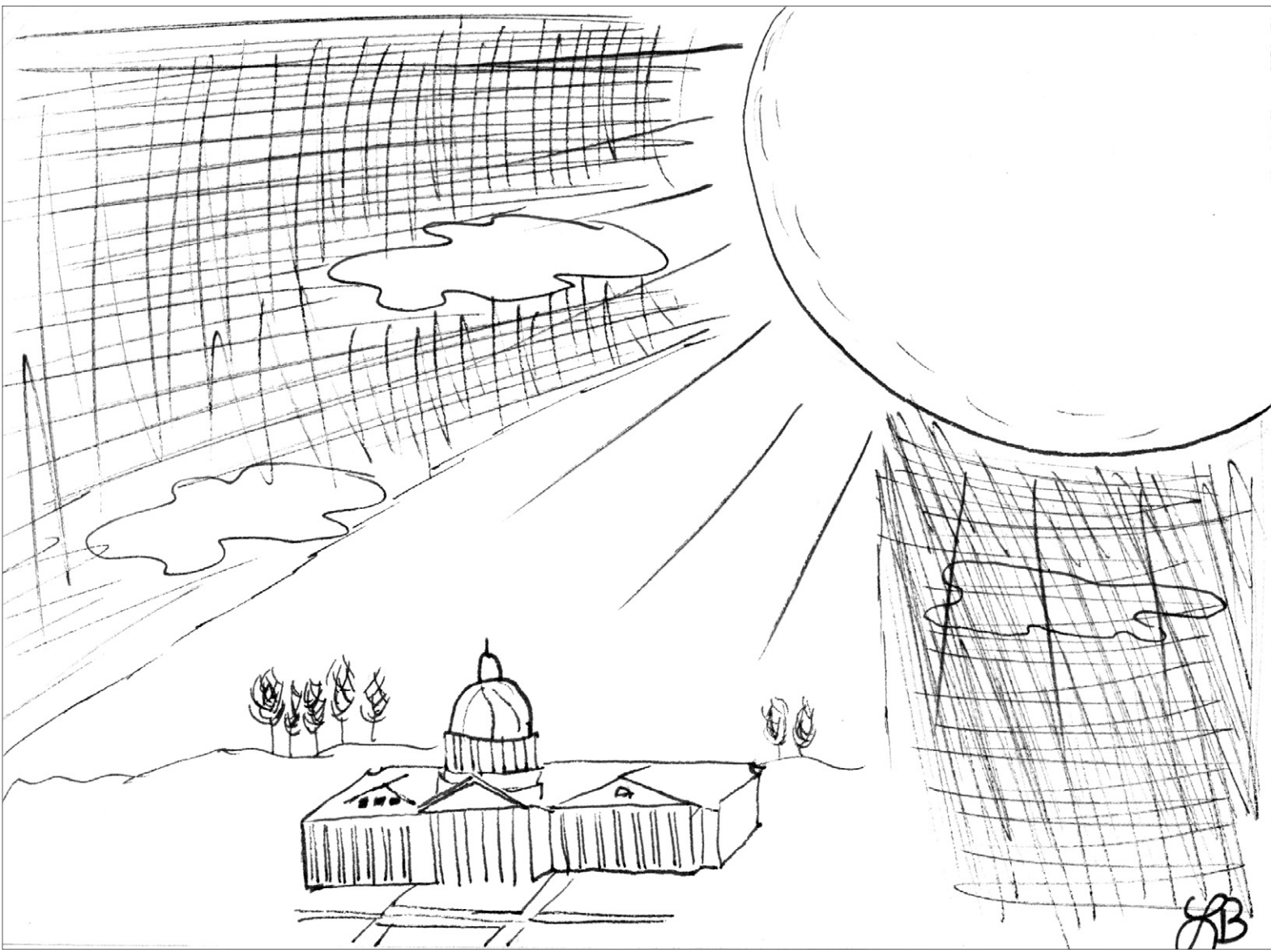
The records must be kept by someone whose job is to maintain them for the public. The public can request access to a public record.

Government officials are supposed to be servants of the people and have the public's best interests in mind. They use the public's money and make decisions on the citizens' behalf.

By limiting the Sunshine Law, government officials are thinking more about themselves and what benefits them.

Schroer said one of the main reasons for the bill is so they can protect their confidentiality. However, government officials are public people. They chose to be in the public eye, so they should not be able to hide their decisions from the people they affect.

Protecting the Sunshine Law



LEAH BRUCE | NW MISSOURIAN

is so important that 45 states and the District of Columbia have nonprofit groups of volunteers committed to the openness of government information.

The Missouri Sunshine Coalition's mission is to educate all Missourians about their rights under the Sunshine Law.

"We believe firmly that the government's business should be conducted in the light of day, for all citizens to see," the website states.

According to an article by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, the passing of this bill reversed a vote from the last legislative session when the House gave the attorney general's office more powers to enforce the Sunshine Law.

Citizens of Missouri should contact their local senators about the bill

to prevent it from getting passed in the Senate. If enough people bring up the issue, government officials should realize that it would be a bill that hurts the general public.

As public officials, they need to be fully transparent. The citizens they serve must know what is going on in the government.

Limiting information people have access to would make it

much harder for them to have a say in the government.

The Missouri Constitution says the people drive the government.

"The people of this state have the inherent, sole and exclusive right to regulate the internal government," Section 3 states.

The public can't regulate the government if the Sunshine Law is weakened with this bill.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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CALENDAR
CONTINUED FROM A1

“It’s always difficult for faculty and students for traveling, in terms of deals on air tickets,” Hesse said. “I think that’s a positive with regard to the calendar that the whole Thanksgiving week is now a break.”

The winter term extends winter break and allows a four-week break compared to the normal three-week break. During this break, Northwest will offer an optional intersession period where students can take on-line classes to gain more credits and raise their grade point average. The winter term will offer select classes which will be determined at a later date.

The rest of the calendar has been extended with finals concluding May 8 to ensure Northwest reaches accreditation purposes due

to the time lost from Thanksgiving and winter break.

Assistant Professor for History Robert Voss said the changes are beneficial so Northwest can be as competitive as other universities.

“There are some advantages to shifting the calendar around,” Voss said. “It opens up winter term which is an awesome thing and makes us similar to other universities.”

The winter intersession will offer select classes which will be determined at a later date.

Hesse said the intersession period will be effective for students to get ahead.

“I think that will be good for students and that they can continue to get credit hours so they can get through school more quickly and in the course of doing that, more economically as well,” Hesse said.

Voss said the classes during the winter intersession will be at

a fast pace due to the four week time period.

“You have to be willing to commit to intense work for a few weeks if you’re thinking about squeezing in an entire semester’s worth of work down into four weeks,” said Voss. “But it gives potential opportunities for students who may need and benefit from something like that.”

Voss said the Northwest calendar is constantly changing and other universities are not as willing to change.

“It shows signs that our University is willing to change and that’s really important,” Voss said. “There are a lot of universities that resist change. Northwest is on the cutting edge and that is a really good thing for students and a good thing for me as a professor because it ensures that students are relevant.”

SPRING BREAK
CONTINUED FROM A1

They also worked at the SSM St. Francis Hospital Health Gala.

ASB hosted a dodgeball tournament at the Student Recreation Center between two teams who donated to participate Saturday. Five teams signed up for the event and two attended. Those who played were the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity and the Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity of Northwest. The event raised a little over \$40 toward ASB’s upcoming service trip March 21 to April 1.

Dodgeball is a new fundraising event, and they plan to host it again in the future to improve it and make it bigger, with more teams participating each year. More teams mean more donations, and they hope to raise the \$40 up to a larger donation amount.

Bloustine said the event was a

way for students to learn about the organization while enjoying fun competition.

“We took notes over what went well and what didn’t go so well to make improvements for next year,” Bloustine said. “With more time to plan and advertise, I have no doubt that tournaments in the future could be a big success and lots of fun.”

Northwest ASB’s goal is to provide individuals with service learning opportunities while positively influencing other’s lives.

Tilena Conover went to Jacksonville, Florida, with Northwest ASB in 2018. She remembers enjoying helping in the Maryville community as well as the trip itself.

“I’d say my favorite part of the trip was the smiles that were spread that week,” Conover said. “Everywhere we went, we were all smiling and spreading joy. I’m glad I was part of such a positive group of people.”



RACHEL ADAMSON | NW MISSOURIAN

Plans are in the works for the installation of solar panels at the B.D. Owens Library to help Northwest become more energy efficient. The Jon T. Rickman Electronic Campus Support Building has had solar panels for several years.

PANELS
CONTINUED FROM A1

“This is basically a pilot project to see how it works,” Mays said. “We thought we would start small, see how it works, how it incorporates into our existing electrical system.”

The library was chosen as the location for the solar panels because it has a lot of roof space, the panels will be easily seen and facilities has worked on the library for several projects in the past year.

“We are very familiar with the building,” Mays said. “Also, it’s a high activity building. One thing that we want to do is awareness. Through the sustainability program, (we are) trying to get occupants and people who come to campus and visit different building conscious of ways that we are trying to be energy efficient.”

The Jon T. Rickman Electronic Campus Support Center has a small array of solar panels on the south side of the building; those panels are the only panels on campus.

“We do have some solar on

campus, but that was done years ago; so this is a new opportunity we are working on now,” Mays said.

Mays said he is going to be meeting with KCP&L within the next two weeks to discuss a larger project for the University.

“From the energy and sustainability standpoint, I’ve got to be extremely progressive in trying to help support the University,” Mays said. “From a utility perspective on campus, the traditional way of thinking is not going to help us from a budget perspective, so I’ve got to try and be creative.”

Maryville advances plan for public safety building

KEJI AKINMOLADUN
Chief Reporter | @OluwatoyinKeji

Over the past year, the City of Maryville has been figuring out the designs for the new public safety building.

Maryville Public Safety Director Keith Wood said they may have a floor plan with the budget.

“We’ve been trying to come up with a floor plan that works financially for the city,” Woods said. “We are finally to that point, and we are pretty confident we are. We look for the project to go to bid probably within the next 30-45 days.”

The target budget for the public safety building is \$4 million. Maryville City Manager Greg McDanel said the building is in poor condition and is not satisfactory for law enforcement needs.

“We went to the voters of the community in April 2017 to renew a half-cent capital sales tax,” McDanel said. “That half-cent capital sales tax pays for many improvements such as public facilities.”

McDanel said the public safety building has been a top priority. There have been six different floor

plans presented to Maryville Public Safety. There have been different ideas for the building such as one story, one story with a basement or two stories.

“It (the new public safety building) will certainly put us into the current days of technology and things of that nature in terms of a functional building,” Wood said. “Our building has certainly served its purpose, but it was built as a grocery store in the early 1970s.”

Maryville Public Safety has been in its building for almost 45 years. The new building will not be in the same location. Instead, it will be on the grounds of the old Washington Middle School at First Street and Vine.

Volunteer firefighter and Northwest professor Matthew Johnson said the building is not big enough, especially when referring to parking and roadway for the fire trucks. Johnson said the new building will allow the fire department side of Maryville Public Safety to get the National Fire Protection Association level it needs.

“On the fire side, we don’t have enough physical space for our

equipment,” Johnson said. “We don’t have the proper ventilation. Our trucks, pumpers and our personal protective equipment are all in the same location and there are chemicals in the air that breaks down our personal equipment, and it’s a good idea to separate these things out.”

Johnson said the police side of Maryville Public Safety needs more space to conduct evidence and process cases. They also need more space to perform interviews.

Woods said they plan to break ground this summer, around June. They hope to be finished with the public safety building in June 2020. The new building will have efficient technology and more space.

“It’s also designed to be a more welcoming space so that individuals who need to make a report or are seeking a safe place because they need to get out of a domestic situation,” Johnson said. “The people understand that Public Safety is there to serve them, and a more welcoming space is going to integrate the community in a better way.”

Police blotters for the week of Feb. 28

Maryville Public Safety
Feb. 19

There is an ongoing investigation for larceny at the 1500 block of East Edwards Street.

Feb. 17

A summons was issued to **Ma-leah Byrd**, 20, from St. Joseph, Missouri, for minor in possession at the 200 block of East Fifth Street.

A summons was issued to **Journee Bigham**, 19, from St. Joseph, Missouri, for minor in possession at the 200 block of East Fifth Street.

A summons was issued to **Wesley Peve**, 21, for driving while intoxicated and careless and imprudent driving at the 100 block of North Main Street.

Feb. 22

A summons was issued to **Orvin Williams**, 23, for wanted on warrant and failure to appear at the 400 block of North Market Street.

Feb. 23

A summons was issued to **Cameron Union**, 19, from Paola, Kansas, for minor in possession and resisting arrest at the 400 block of North Buchanan Street.

A summons was issued to **Morgan Roberts**, 19, from Muncie, Indiana, for minor in possession

and failure to display lighted headlamps at the 400 block of North Walnut Street.

Feb. 24

A summons was issued to **James Beemer**, 48, for driving while intoxicated at the 100 block of Faustiana Place.

Northwest Missouri State University
Police Department

Feb. 19

There is an open investigation for stealing at Tower Suites.

Feb. 21

There was a closed investigation for liquor law violation at Tower Suites.

Feb. 23

There were four closed investigations for liquor law violations at South Complex.

Feb. 24

There were six closed investigations for liquor law violations at Roberta Hall.

Feb. 25

A summons was issued to **Sophie Caldwell**, 18, for possession of marijuana at Lot 25.

A summons was issued to **Halley Meyer**, 18, for possession of marijuana at Lot 25.

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Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri.:
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Wed.:
8am-7pm

Sat.:
8am-12pm

The History of Pizza

Foods similar to the pizza --- namely flatbreads and oven-baked bread with various toppings --- have been prepared since the Neolithic age and across almost every region of the world.

However, bakers in Naples prepared the first dish to be known as a “pizza” in the 1600s. This street food was sold to the poor Neapolitans who spent much of their time outside their one-room homes. These Neapolitans would purchase slices of pizza and eat it as they walked, which led contemporary Italian authors to call their eating habits “disgusting.”



By MetroCreative

SUDOKU

By MetroCreative

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HOROSCOPE

By MetroCreative

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, you have high hopes about everything that crosses your path this week. This includes your love life. You might be eager to step things up a notch in that area.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, find comfort in the fact that your spouse or significant other and you share the same perspective about important topics. He or she also has integrity, which means a lot.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
Conversations this week will be on point, Gemini. Everything you have to say will be unequivocal, and others will follow your instructions in every detail.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
If you are single, it is possible you will meet someone this week you believe could be long-term relationship material. This person may be your complete opposite.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
Finding success in things that you want to do can take a few rough drafts, Leo. Do not be discouraged if a few attempts do not yield the desired outcomes.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Communication will come much easier to you this week, Virgo. This hasn’t always been the case, as you sometimes worry about how your words will be received.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
An event may occur this week that fortifies financial stability at home, Libra. This may involve real estate or developing a new long-term financial plan.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, you will not need to work too hard to prove to someone who loves you just how amazing you are. These people understand that, and you’re grateful for it.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, as long as the people you surround yourself with are able to respect you and give you some breathing room, they’re healthy to be around.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, friends will not steer you wrong this week, especially if you are looking to them for advice on love. They may have some heartfelt words of wisdom.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Your love life and social life are intertwined this week, Aries. It is very likely that you will spend ample time with friends as well as that special person in your life.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, many people set goals early in a new year, and you can try to follow suit. This may provide some guidance for you as the year progresses.

CROSSWORD

By MetroCreative

- CLUES ACROSS
- 1. Iranian village
 - 6. Duct
 - 9. Holds potatoes
 - 13. Plant of the goosefoot family
 - 14. Spoken in Cameroon
 - 15. Students’ rights document (abbr.)
 - 16. Skin lesion
 - 17. Went over the airwaves
 - 18. Nestle malt drink
 - 19. Rockets’ point guard
 - 21. Developed the polio vaccine
 - 22. Businessmen
 - 23. Animals have it
 - 24. Atomic number 58
 - 25. Cycles/second
 - 28. Japanese classical theater
 - 29. Slow nocturnal primate
 - 31. Used in a play
 - 33. One that breaks apart
 - 36. Yellow-fever mosquitos
 - 38. Bag-like structure in a plant
 - 39. Simple wooden shoe
 - 41. Leeches
 - 44. Tide
 - 45. Fathers
 - 46. Decay
 - 48. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
 - 49. The Golden State (abbr.)
 - 51. Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand
 - 52. Unique garments
 - 54. True firs
 - 56. One who’s not on time
 - 60. Angry speech
 - 61. Young children
 - 62. About aviation
 - 63. This (Spanish)
 - 64. Earns a perfect score
 - 65. People of Ghana
 - 66. Founding member of The Grateful Dead
 - 67. Of she
 - 68. Genus of lichens
- CLUES DOWN
- 1. Variety of pear
 - 2. Curved symmetrical

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60					61						62		
63					64				65				
66					67				68				

- structure
- 3. A demon in some cultures
 - 4. Cricket frogs
 - 5. Atomic #45
 - 6. Abnormal bone joint
 - 7. Cain and —
 - 8. Unhappy
 - 9. Dogooder
 - 10. Most babies need _ _ _ when they eat
 - 11. Abdominal pain suffered by babies
 - 12. Monetary unit
 - 14. Tendency to suffer from a particular condition
 - 17. Genus of flowering plants
 - 20. It comes up some days
 - 21. Koran chapters
 - 23. In support of
 - 25. One who crunches numbers
 - 26. A type of school
 - 27. Pops
 - 29. Tears
 - 30. Not influenced by drugs
 - 32. Forms a boundary
 - 34. Touch quickly and gently
 - 35. Stray
 - 37. A period between solar and lunar eclipses
 - 40. Third-party access
 - 42. A very large body of water
 - 43. Infections
 - 47. It might be due to nerves
 - 49. Hall of Fame ballplayer Rod
 - 50. Belittle
 - 52. Type of sword
 - 53. Makes very wet
 - 55. One-time Peruvian money
 - 56. A shoe typically has one
 - 57. Not nice
 - 58. Sea eagle
 - 59. Civil Rights figure Parks
 - 61. Humbug
 - 65. A precious metal (abbr.)

Last Week’s Solutions

S	N	C	C		S	C	A	R	E		D	E	C	K
P	U	L	A		A	L	L	E	N		A	R	U	I
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A	R	E	A	S		C	A	D		S	O	A	V	E
R	E	A	D		S	A	G		C	A	B	A	N	A
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5	7	2	4	8	6	1	9	3
3	1	8	7	9	5	4	2	6

The Skeletwins



LEAH BRUCE | NW MISSOURIAN



Feb. 28, 2019

Student volunteers impact area youth

CORIE HERTZOG
A&E Editor | @CoffeeGilmore97

The role models in people’s lives influence who they may become later in life. For young children these can become the unofficial big siblings they attach themselves too as they grow up.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is the country’s largest and oldest evidence-based mentor program, helping provide children with adult mentors. In the organization’s mission statement, Big Brothers Big Sisters wants to “provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better.”

Clinical laboratory science junior Shawna Schumacher experienced the program long before she became a mentor to third-grader Kaelyn.

“My brother and sister were both in the program growing up, and I saw how it helped them grow into the people they are now,” Schumacher said. “I wanted to be able to do the same thing and give back.”

Big Brothers Big Sisters started in 1904 by a New York City court clerk, Ernest Coulter, and paired with the Ladies of Charity in 1997 to including mentoring for both boys and girls.

In Big Brothers Big Sisters, mentors and mentees, or “Bigs” and “Littles” are partnered up. The process takes around two months to complete. Potential mentors go through an interview process where they are asked about their interests, availability and what works best for them. Mentors then have a home visit to make sure it’s a safe environment for their potential mentee. Once the mentors have been approved, they go through the matching process to determine a mentee.

Once the two are paired, it is up to the two to decide how often they spend time together and what they will do during their meetings.

“Kaelyn is very energetic and loves crafts,” Schumacher said. “We have made and decorated

cupcakes a few times. We try and do some things centered around the holidays, so we’ve made snow globes. We’ve painted flower pots to plant flowers. We go to the park and play or even just go on walks sometimes. She really likes to go bowling, so sometimes we do that; she normally beats me though.”

Big Brothers Big Sisters pushes mentors to inspire self-confidence, importance of education and provide positive reinforcement for good character development.

Marketing junior Brody Buck strives to provide a positive voice for his mentee, Mason.

“To me, I get to provide an impact to the generation after me,” Buck said. “I never had a little brother or a brother in general.”

To Buck, it all boils down to practicing what he preaches and trying to show Mason what is right and wrong through his own actions.

“You have to watch what you say and what you do,” Buck said. “That little kid is looking up to me, and if I’m not being a good example, all he’s going to know is what I do ... it’s crazy how much middle schoolers look up to college students. I don’t know why, but they just do. So, if I’m not being a good example, then he thinks it’s acceptable to do whatever I’m doing.”

Buck said he tries to lead by example, trying to lead a life he hopes Mason will adopt.

“So if I’m someone who gives back to the community, pursues a relationship with God and goes to church, or something like that, he sees that,” Buck said.

David L. DuBois, Carla Herrera and Julius Rivera conducted research for the National Criminal Justice Reference Service in 2018. The trio found that mentees with a year-long partnership with their mentor had “statistically significant predictor of fewer total arrests” and, in mentees of color, were more likely to seek a college education.

Buck started his application in December after the suggestion of his friend and football teammate, Devante Mosbey. Buck describes

juggling being a student, athlete and a mentor as finding a small piece of time in the week.

“All they ask is an hour a week,” Buck said. “Honestly, even if you have a job, play sports, you can find an hour. It’s not that great of a commitment. It’s just consistency. Every week, just find an hour to call up their [the little’s] parents and ask if they are free.”

Buck finds his hour on the weekends.

“Weekends are really good for me,” Buck said. “But there are always evenings where I can call up Mason’s parents and see if he wants to hang out.”

Buck and Mason often spend their time together outside, playing catch with a football or going for walks.

“He’s a fifth-grader, and I don’t know if you’re familiar with fifth-grade boys, but they are all over the place,” Buck said. “It’s funny because you can never tell how a fifth-grader, especially a boy, will turn out. He could be a completely bad kid and turn out to be great, but Mason is a really respectful kid.”

While the program is intended to benefit the littles, bigs often walk away with a sense of accomplishment.

In 2010, John M. Bridgeland and Laura A. Moore conducted a study which found 78 percent of mentors said, “Encouraging other individuals to be more involved in directly helping children was more important than working to change public policy.”

For Northwest students, the feeling of helping younger children brings a sense of joy.

“Being a big has probably been one of the most rewarding things I’ve ever done,” Schumacher said. “You don’t truly understand the impact you make, but trust me, the families do. I have gained so much from Kaelyn, just understanding that kids see and hear more than we think they do. It’s the little things that you notice that actually make a big impact.”



SUBMITTED
Mentor, Brody Buck, and mentee, Mason, smile while spending time with each other.



SUBMITTED
Mentee, Phoenix, and mentor, Tyler Miller, show their joy after Phoenix made a half-court shot during halftime Jan. 31.



SUBMITTED
Mentee, Natalya, and mentor, Marissa Jarnagin, stand with Bobby the Bearcat after participating in a small game during halftime Jan. 31.

THE STROLLER: Your Bearcat wants roommate courtesy

My dorm room is supposed to be a place where I can relax after a long day. However, my refuge is lost when you and your boyfriend on the other bed can't stop touching each other.

I understand that you've been dating for a few months and just love each other so much, but, seriously, you don't need to be intimate 24/7. Especially when there is another person around.

I spend a lot of time at my

desk, facing away and listening to music, but I am very perceptive and can still hear things. Please don't forget about my existence.

I don't like feeling uneasy in my own room. I know it's your room too, but it's not his; there's rarely a time where he isn't with you.

Sometimes I get so uncomfortable, I have to take my stuff and work in the lounge. It's such

a hassle, all because you can't get off of each other.

We have a symbol that tells me when I can't come inside, but I'm getting tired of how frequently I can't go into my room after a long day of classes and activities.

I'm a busy person and our schedules are quite different, so there are plenty of times when you could express your love for each other before I come back.

Be intimate then, not when I'm around.

I don't think I'm asking for much. I just want you to be a bit more aware of how your roommate feels when you do things with your boyfriend while she's around.

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.

Board games return to spotlight

ABBEY HUGO
Copy Editor | abbey_hugo

Tabletop games have seen a rise in popularity over the past couple of years. Now, more people turn to board games when bored.

Between 2016 and 2017, board game sales jumped by 28 percent in the U.S. and global sales increased by \$3 billion between 2013 and 2016, according to Ad Week.

Johnny Looram, Northwest alum and board game enthusiast, expressed how shocked he was by the rapid growth of the board game culture.

"Today, in the past few years, the world has gotten a lot bigger and more creative with board games," Looram said. "It's kind of becoming the new hobby. A year ago, I wouldn't have imagined myself being into them, but I am now."

The global sales are predicted to continue to skyrocket—with the board game industry slated to exceed values of \$12 billion by 2023, according to Research and Markets.

In the new, technological age, nostalgia and the simplicity of board games are what draw some people in, like sophomore board game enthusiast Marcus Mallen.

"I think people are getting more interested in board games because they have more of a retro appeal," Mallen said. "With how high-tech and convoluted some of the new technology-based games can get, it's kind of nice to go back to the basics."

Freshman and Maryville Board Game Cafe employee Sierra Chase said human interaction is what makes board games so special.

"(What makes board games different is) the human interaction, because you actually get to talk to another person and enjoy that experience with them, and it creates memories," Chase said.

She proceeded to summarize why human interaction was valuable: "So, we don't become robots," Chase said.

The board-gaming craze isn't entirely founded on the dusty games like Scrabble and Monopoly sitting in grandmother's basement. More than 5,000 new board games hit the U.S. market in 2017 alone, according to the Seattle Times.

Kickstarter, "the world's largest funding platform for creative projects," is a hub and major creative outlet for new-fangled games and the origin of now-famous games such as Cards Against Humanity and Exploding Kittens. Board game traffic on the site had a major rise throughout last year.

"Tabletop games continued their meteoric rise on Kickstarter throughout 2018, helping push the games category to an all-time high of more than \$200 million," a January Polygon article said. "Data provided to Polygon by the crowdfunding platform show a nearly 20 percent increase in funds raised by successful tabletop projects over the previous year."

"In total, the tabletop games category — which includes board games, hobby miniatures games, card games and tabletop role-playing games — was up \$27.23 million, a 19.8 percent increase compared to 2017" which tramples, in comparison, any earnings the video game projects had made in the past three years.

"When it comes to playing with friends, there's something about being right there, together, that is really nice," Looram said. "You can interact with each other face to face; there are some video games you can play together all on the same screen or the same couch, but there's something different about having people around and seeing something visually in front of you that's nice about board games."

Mallen, Looram and Chase all agreed a board game cafe was the way to dive into the new culture of board games.

"A lot of the newer games I find at the Board Game Cafe here in town because they just have so many of them," Mallen said. "(It's a way to) just to get exposed to things and try new games without having to pay ... to buy the game."



MADI NOLTE | NW MISSOURIAN
Director of Diversity and Inclusion Justin Mallet and sophomore Daryl Brown play a game of Spades with Jackson Barnes and Clarence Green (not pictured) during Diversity, Equity and Inclusion's game night Feb. 22.

DEI office hosts game night

JAMES CHRISTENSEN
A&E Reporter | @jameschris1701

Northwest students gathered together for the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion's game night Feb. 22 at North Complex.

Director of diversity and inclusion Justin Mallett started the game nights, but this is the first one that is directly hosted by DEI.

"We started doing game nights a couple of months ago as a way to bring students together," Mallett said. "It allows them to have fun and hang out as well as creating a relaxing atmosphere."

Adam Gonzales, the coordinator

of diversity and inclusion, wants to foster a safe and welcoming space for all students and allow them to come together under one roof.

"Game night is a great way to provide a safe and welcoming space for all students to socialize with other students from across campus," Gonzales said. "As well as have some fun in the process."

Gonzales went on to talk about encouraging student connections and expanding their ways of thinking.

"We always encourage our students to make connections with other students from backgrounds different from their own," Gonzales

said. "We encourage learning about other cultures, other life experiences and ways of thinking. It was our hope that an event open to all would provide a space for these sorts of interactions to occur organically."

Business management sophomore Lara Watson decided to go to game night to make more connections with people on campus.

"I usually come to game night because it is kind of an opportunity to see people I don't usually get to see around campus," Watson said. "It is a nice time to relax and have some down time from our busy schedules and have a break from

homework and studying."

Mallett believes game night was the best way to bring a diverse group of students together.

"It does not matter what color you are, white, black, blue or green," Mallett said. "This event is designed so people can come together and have fun while playing a variety of board games. A majority of students already play board games in their residence halls, but this brings everyone together under one roof for a night of fun."

**FULL STORY ONLINE:
NWMISSOURIENEWS.COM**

Students take plunge for charity

PRIYANKA PATEL
Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

Five students dove into the ice-cold waters of Colden Pond to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Feb. 21.

Five students including senior Taylor Felz and freshman Jada VanDuyne were the fearless students who took part in the annual Polar Plunge sponsored by Northwest's Up 'til Dawn.

Felz, who has been part of Up 'til Dawn since 2016, was overwhelmed after she came out of the pond.

"I have never felt anything so cold in my life," Felz said. "My whole body just went into shock as soon as I hit the water. I basically went numb, which I guess was kind of a good thing."

Felz, who raised \$230 for St. Jude, said she would participate next year.

"I would absolutely do it again. The sacrifice we made jumping into the pond is nothing compared to the sacrifices that St. Jude patients have to make everyday," Felz said.

There was a small crowd to cheer on the participants as they jumped, a majority of them supporting their friends who have raised money.

Hannah Hetzel, an elementary education freshman, was excited to see her best friend, Legan, jump.

"It was really fun to see my best friend jump, as she is someone who likes to help out whenever she can for charity," Hetzel said. "She did an awesome job."

Mackenzie Smith, therapy and recreation junior, helped organize

the event.

"I'm on the St. Jude executive board which consists of 14 people, and my prior role was side events assistant, so this particular event was assigned to me and I was happy to take it on," Smith said.

Smith enjoyed organizing the event as it allowed her to be more independent.

"My favorite part was seeing the excitement and nervousness from the jumpers," Smith said. "It showed that the event had an impact on them. Even though we had to reschedule due to bad weather, I'm glad we could still carry out the event."

VanDuyne, who represented Phi Mu and the St. Jude executive board, raised the most out of all the participants.

"I raised \$264 for the cause, and it was extremely heartwarming to make a positive impact in another individual's life, which is something I will cherish for a long time," VanDuyne said.

VanDuyne is the youngest on the executive board and has been part of other charities in the past.

"I have been part of donating and advocating for The M3 Foundation and Children's Miracle Network Hospital, but as I fundraised and learned more about the significance of St. Jude and the strength of the patients, the event became much more personal for me," VanDuyne said.

Overall, the participants raised more than \$800 from the event and raised over \$37,000 during its Up 'til Dawn campaign.



MADI GLASS | NW MISSOURIAN
Spencer Gouldsmith takes a mighty leap into a slightly frozen Colden Pond Feb. 21 after raising a total of \$829 in this event, with his team for St. Jude.

BASKETBALL
CONTINUED FROM A1

“Our objective going into the game was to treat this like it’s an NCAA tournament game because I’ve always felt like we don’t play well in that first game,” coach Ben McCollum said. “This was a big environment.”

The matchup with Western offered as much pressure in the later moments as Northwest has felt all season. After building a 16-point lead in the latter part of the second half, the Bearcats let Western turn the tide. Western pulled within one point of Northwest in the game’s final minutes.

With the team’s perfect record and a rivalry game on the line, the young Bearcats did not crumble in stress. Instead, the Bearcats calmly hit shots when they needed to, willing their way to a win.

The Bearcats hope the tightly-contested matchup in an intense atmosphere will pay off as they march their way toward postseason play.

“Hopefully, in a couple weeks, we’re going to thank Missouri Western for this game,” McCollum said. “And I thought that going into the game, like, a close game wouldn’t be a bad thing. When you’re in the game, it’s horrible, but afterward ... I think it’s going to pay a lot of dividends.”

McCollum thinks the game, in

TRACK
CONTINUED FROM A12

In his last MIAA championship meet, the first hosted by Northwest in the meet’s 78-year history, Schultz took home four trophies.

“Everything went to plan,” Schultz said. “The weekend went perfect, at least for me. We came out at second. The goal was first, but six points shy. The team did awesome. We went off.”

Schultz and Austin have made for an interesting and dynamic pairing for the Bearcats this season. While Austin has tended to be an eccentric source of energy, Schultz has served as a steady, guiding hand for Northwest. Together, they’ve propelled Northwest to its best season in more than a decade.

Schultz was reminiscent of his time at Northwest in the aftermath of the conference meet, thanking

COLUMN
CONTINUED FROM A12

But Masters didn’t talk about the results from this year, instead, he talked about his athletes and their tenacity, passion and willingness to buy in. For Masters, those intangible traits the Bearcats have shown are less measurable than results but give greater insight into how far the team has come.

Masters and Gibson didn’t inherit a stacked team, but they went to work anyway.

“Our numbers weren’t great; we didn’t have a lot of depth,” Masters said. “But what we had was all these kids believed in the team, and in us and the culture and what we were saying. They wanted it. We’ve had a lot of success because we have a mindset of ‘team first.’”

For the most part, the roster consists of many of the same athletes it did a season ago. The difference this season has started at the top, and the culture change has been noticeable.

The departure of Lorek and the hiring of Masters and Gibson has pushed the program from an afterthought in the MIAA to an up-and-

some ways, could serve as a sobering moment for a team that has cruised its way through most of its 28 victories.

“This game was perfect for the postseason,” McCollum said. “This is exactly what we needed. I needed it as a coach; we needed it as a team ... I thought we didn’t do a great job of handling it; I didn’t do a great job of handling it, but we did better than we ever have.”

For 40 minutes, Northwest ground its way through the close matchup in route to a victory, one that could be an important step in the Bearcats’ impending postseason run. Afterward, the team cut down the nets in celebration of its conference title, something McCollum said never gets old.

Next, the Bearcats will move on to Topeka, Kansas, to defend their perfect regular season against Washburn.

The Bearcats want to win the matchup as much as they expect to, and they plan on continuing their winning ways through the MIAA tournament and into regionals. Finding ways to win and advance is what they do, and it’s what they’ve done at a higher clip than any other program in the country over the last three seasons.

“Just one game at a time: that’s our motto,” Bernard said. “I chose Northwest because they’re a winning program, and that’s what we’re doing right now.”

his teammates and the community for their combined endless support. Contrastingly, Austin, who’s just 18 years old, expressed excitement about the future and said he expects to be in the Olympics by the time his senior year winds down.

What the long-term future holds for either athlete is to be determined, but their immediate future resides in Pittsburg, Kansas, where each athlete will compete in nationals March 8-9. While the duo ultimately did everything they set out to do at the conference meet, Austin still sees nationals as an opportunity to take care of unfinished business.

“Oh man, I’m very excited,” Austin said. “This is just the start of my freshman year. I still got nationals in two weeks, so I can see what I can do there ... Coach (Masters) told me, he said, ‘Don’t go too hard. Just give them a little bit and save it for nationals.’ We’ll see what I can do there.”

coming powerhouse. The athletes present may have always contained the same potential they showed this season, but it took the pair of new coaches to pull it out of them.

Their training regimen was brilliantly crafted, and the coaches simply expected more of their athletes than their predecessors. If the results changed so drastically after just six months with Masters and Gibson, it’s interesting to wonder where the program will be in a year, or in four years after the team is filled with the coaches’ own recruits.

The future, as bright as it seems, should not be the focus of today. Rather, the limelight should be placed on the program’s unlikely turnaround in Masters’ and Gibson’s brief tenures at the helm.

What the team did last weekend, and over the last few months, was sensational. But for the Bearcats, who tout an overhauled culture, the newfound results were the expectation all along.

“That’s what happens,” one athlete said, “when you get two brand new coaches that know what they’re doing.”



FILE PHOTO | NW MISSOURIAN
Junior pitcher Logan Wenzel has allowed an opponent batting average of .200 and has only allowed four runs in her career.

Softball set to resume nonconference games

TUCKER FRANKLIN
Assistant Sports Editor | @thereal_tuckerf

As conference play creeps closer for Northwest softball, the Bearcats find themselves at an experience disadvantage heading into the MIAA schedule.

Northwest has fallen victim to yet another cancellation as the Missouri Southern Tournament in Joplin, originally scheduled for March 1-3, has canceled the last two days of its tournament. The elimination of Saturday and Sunday’s events has nullified four potential games for the Bearcats.

Coach Ryan Anderson said the weather cancellations have made it hard for him to know what his team needs to focus on.

“It’s hard to know what to work on and what to do because right now we are just sitting in a hole,” Anderson said. “Yeah, we have a place to practice, but mentally, athletically and game wise, we are behind.”

Junior infielder Erin Keeney said not having the experience some of the other teams the Bearcats will see later have has hindered their growth.

“It’s very frustrating,” Keeney said. “There are some teams in the MIAA that have almost 20 games, and we only have six, so I’d say we

have a disadvantage with games. It’s definitely been very frustrating.”

Northwest has played the least amount of total games of any team in the MIAA. Northeastern State has played 17, most in the MIAA, while the average games played between all schools is 10.

“Obviously playing fewer games is a disadvantage, but I think also, going into the game, it’s just the mental aspect of it,” Keeney said about the weather-tormented tournaments. “Yeah, we’ve had fewer games, but I think to go in and just saying, ‘Yo, let’s get this, we got this.’ We can’t control the canceled games, so let’s just go and get to work.”

With at most only eight games under its belt, Northwest will travel to Edmond, Oklahoma, to take on Central Oklahoma to open up MIAA play March 9. Meanwhile, the Bronchos have played 15 games before the conference schedule.

“You hope you have enough upperclassmen that things fall into place as you start playing conference,” Anderson said. “We were supposed to have 20 games going into the first conference game. Hopefully, by then, you kind of have a rhythm of figuring things out position wise, and we just have no chance.”

KOSTER
CONTINUED FROM A12

When the ‘Hounds arrived back in Maryville, sophomore wrestler Connor Weiss said some athletes were called in for interviews in regards to the event to determine the punishment.

“A few people had to give statements,” Weiss said. “We talked about it as a team after school and kinda just felt terrible.”

When the news came out that Koster and Klein would be suspended for state, Weiss said the team was disappointed by the decision.

“All of us wrestlers were pretty down about it because we were really close to them,” Weiss said. “We all know it wasn’t like they were wasted, they just had a few drinks while we were already in bed, and then after that, they went to bed.”

The way the school district handled this event surprised Koster. He explained to The Forum he thought coaches were allowed to do what he did.

“I asked them, ‘I thought all the

coaches did this?’” Koster said to The Forum. “It was just something that coaches did. I hear about other coaches going to the bars all the time. ... This was just relaxing in the room, watching a movie and having a few drinks. They said, ‘Yeah, we understand the culture, and we know what happened, but for you guys, a parent turned you in so it makes it a little bit different.’”

Koster declined to elaborate on the interview with The Forum to The Missourian.

“There’s not much more of a story then what’s on The Forum,” Koster said to the Missourian when asked for additional comments. “The only thing I might add would be a little bit about the program. I would have liked to thank the wrestling team for a wonderful two years and for all the hard work they gave me.”

Junior state qualifier Gaven Grey-Walker said he could tell the suspension weighed on the wrestlers during the tournament.

“I definitely think it was in the mind of some of the wrestlers,” Grey-Walker said. “I get why they

UP NEXT

Northwest vs William Jewell

2 p.m. Mar. 1

Joplin

Northwest vs Rockhurst

4:30 p.m. Mar. 1

Joplin

Led by four seniors and seven juniors, the Bearcats are an upper-classmen-heavy team with experience in MIAA play.

Junior infielder Kaitlyn Weiss leads Northwest batting average (.500), hits (10), home runs (3), RBIs (8), slugging percentage (1.100) and on-base percentage (.565).

With no sign of Maryville thawing out any time soon, Anderson said he could recall winters that were hard on the ‘Cats practice time, but none as bad as this year.

“We’ve had years where we’ve had more snow, but we’ve had 50-degree days to melt it off,” Anderson said. “This extended period of cold has given us no hope. We just don’t have the hope (of getting outside) ... I don’t know how long we are looking before we can actually get on the field.”

had to be suspended, but I didn’t like how the school had to suspend them right before state instead of waiting till after. A coaching change is never ideal before the biggest meet of the year.”

With the state tournament quickly following the suspension of Koster and Klein, Maryville turned to former coach and National Wrestling Hall of Famer Joe Drake to take the reigns of the program.

“We know it was still the wrong decision in the end, but we just wish it went another way,” Weiss said of the suspension. “Coach Drake was amazing as well. Props to him for taking time out of his life to put us in the best situation for state.”

Beu declined to comment on the situation and deferred to Albrecht for questions on personnel matters.

Albrecht acknowledged The Forum’s article regarding the matter but declined to comment on the situation.

The Spoofhounds are now tasked with finding a wrestling coach for the third time since the retirement of Drake in 2014.

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Stable offense lifts Northwest

TRENT SPINNER
Chief Reporter | @trentspinner

When Northwest baseball stepped up to the plate in its first MIAA outing, success was measured by their strengths in the batting order compared to behind the mound.



The Bearcats (6-7, 2-1 MIAA) put a damper on Northeastern State's (2-12, 1-2 MIAA) opening conference series as they batted to take two of the three games in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

With a combination of sub-par pitching from Riverhawks and strong hitting for Northwest, it became evident the Bearcats would have a good series at the plate scoring an average of 11.6 runs per game. On the other end though, Northeastern State prided itself on its own offensive game. In the end, the two high powered offenses combined for a 35-31 advantage in total runs favoring Northwest.

By the time the series ended, the Bearcats had finished 2-1, with a hole in their arsenal as their need for pitching continued. For a young

core of relief and starting pitching, stability was there for youth, but the struggles began with some of the veteran pitchers on the staff.

With that comes another week of trying to grow on the mound during practice.

"Just getting back to work this week, we got to do some things in practice," coach Darin Loe said. "Making sure our eyes are on our targets and playing catch with a purpose, and hopefully every throw we make we get a little better at it."

A common trend that continues to highlight Northwest's power is its dangerous approaches to opposing pitchers when they line the plate. Northwest scored eight runs in the first two matchups, before doing the improbable and batting over the level they had been. In the third game, the shootout concluded with a score of 19-15 in favor of the Bearcats.

Two of the leaders that catapulted the Bearcats' chances for victory came from the first baseman position.

Junior first baseman Connor Quick started the first game of the

UP NEXT

Northwest vs
Central Oklahoma
3 p.m. Feb. 28, 12 p.m. Mar. 1
Edmond, Oklahoma

series going 2-for-4 with five RBIs, with four being attributed to his grand slam. Quick struggled in the second game before getting some rest in the third.

Sophomore first baseman Matt Gastner relieved him and picked up where he left off as Gastner went 3-for-6 with four RBIs.

"Not just the first baseman, we got two catchers that are swinging the bat real well, both first basemen swinging well and a bunch of guys," Loe said. "When we're playing the game the way we want to play it, I think that's a pretty solid lineup."

FULL STORY ONLINE:
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM



FILE PHOTO | NW MISSOURIAN

Senior Jay Hrdlicka is returning this season with 115 career starts under his belt. Hrdlicka has an impressive 113 career hits and 75 career runs scored.

Tennis collects early victories

GEORDON GUMM
Missourian Reporter | @geordon97gumm

Northwest men's and women's tennis started out the spring season strong, picking up wins Feb. 22 over Maryville University in Red Oak, Iowa.



Men's tennis won the match 4-2, while the women posted a 4-1 win over the Saints.

"It was nice playing at Red Oak; it is always a really nice atmosphere in that facility," coach Mark Rosewell said. "It is nice to have that facility for some of our indoor matches early in the season."

Rosewell spoke of the importance of starting off the season strong to help the team further down the road.

"Being able to come away with those wins against Maryville serves as a great confidence boost for the team," Rosewell said. "As a fairly young team, it is exciting to see us start out the year strong."

The Bearcats have experienced success under coach Rosewell in his 35 years with the school, but last spring was somewhat unfamiliar as the team flirted with a .500 record finishing the season with a record of 10-9. Rosewell emphasized the experience gained from last year.

"Last year was not what we hoped for," Rosewell said. "We really lacked experience last year down the stretch. It cost us a couple of matches where we probably could have come out with a win."

The lack of experience weighed down the Bearcats and caused them to snap their streak of eight straight conference championships. Rosewell is looking to flip the script and get both of his teams to the top of the conference and in the postseason. With last season to build off, the Bearcats look to capitalize and show the experience will pay off.

Returning only two seniors on the team, there is potential for some growing pains throughout the season. Former Bearcat and grad assistant Romain Boissinot will be able to provide his experience to this young team.



FILE PHOTO | NW MISSOURIAN

Northwest men's and women's tennis each earned victories over Maryville University in Red Oak, Iowa, Feb. 23-24.

Rosewell believes the team was able to build upon last season's lack of experience. He also noted some of the accomplishments a member was able to achieve in the fall.

Rosewell said he felt the team competed well in the fall when a

member of the Northwest men's tennis team competed and placed third in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) cup.

FULL STORY ONLINE:
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM

UP NEXT

Northwest vs Drury
8 p.m. Mar. 1, 1 p.m. Mar. 2
Springfield, Missouri

'Hounds season ends in districts

JACOB COOK
Missourian Reporter | @jacobcook16

Maryville girls basketball's run towards a state berth reached an end in a 47-39 loss to St. Pius X in the Class 3 District 16 championship game Feb. 22 in Kansas City, Missouri.



Although this is not what Maryville (16-8) had hoped for, the team was able to get to the championship from the help of its two seniors: Emma Baldwin and Kamryn Gastler. Both players have been on the team for all four years and started their careers not able to win a game until Albrecht came to Maryville.

Baldwin explained how being able to play at Maryville impacted her as a player.

"Kamryn and I grew up playing travel ball together," Baldwin said. "So we were very comfortable with each other, and it was great having her by my side these last four years. Since the beginning of freshman year, we had so many goals we wanted to reach, and these last two years, and especially this year, we were able to reach those goals."

The two seniors are leaving with a district runner up plaque as well as the experiences and memories they have had with the team. Baldwin doesn't feel like the season should be over and still wants to continue playing.

"It just makes us wish that we had another year to play," Baldwin said. "That way we can experience the growth of the team after us and what they will go and accomplish."

FULL STORY ONLINE:
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM

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NW MEN'S BASKETBALL			NW WOMEN'S BASKETBALL			NW BASEBALL			NW SOFTBALL		
MIAA Standings			MIAA Standings			MIAA Standings			MIAA Standings		
Overall MIAA			Overall MIAA			Overall MIAA			Overall		
y-NORTHWEST.....	28-0	15-0	y-Fort Hays State.....	25-1	16-1	Missouri Southern.....	10-3	3-0	Central Oklahoma.....	14-1	
x-Washburn.....	21-5	12-3	x-Central Missouri.....	20-5	13-4	Missouri Western.....	5-5	3-0	Lindenwood.....	5-1	
x-Missouri Southern.....	22-5	11-4	x-Lindenwood.....	19-5	13-4	Central Missouri.....	8-5	2-1	Missouri Western.....	6-4	
x-Fort Hays State.....	16-10	9-6	x-Washburn.....	18-8	13-4	Pittsburg State.....	7-5	2-1	Fort Hays State.....	5-4	
x-Lincoln.....	16-10	9-6	x-Emporia State.....	21-6	12-5	Lindenwood.....	6-7	2-1	Central Missouri.....	4-4	
Pittsburg State.....	15-11	7-8	x-Pittsburg State.....	20-6	12-5	NORTHWEST.....	6-7	2-1	Pittsburg State.....	5-6	
Northeastern State.....	14-13	6-9	x-Nebraska Kearney.....	15-11	8-9	Southwest Baptist.....	6-6	1-2	Washburn.....	7-9	
Central Missouri.....	14-12	6-9	x-Central Oklahoma.....	17-11	8-10	Washburn.....	6-6	1-2	Missouri Southern.....	3-4	
Lindenwood.....	14-15	6-9	x-Missouri Western.....	13-14	8-10	Emporia State.....	3-6	1-2	Northeastern State.....	7-10	
Southwest Baptist.....	12-14	6-9	Missouri Southern.....	13-14	5-12	Northeastern State.....	2-12	1-2	NORTHWEST.....	2-4	
Emporia State.....	11-15	11-15	Southwest Baptist.....	9-17	5-12	Central Oklahoma.....	6-5	0-3	Emporia State.....	2-9	
Missouri Western.....	12-17	12-17	NORTHWEST.....	7-20	3-15	Fort Hays State.....	0-11	0-3	Nebraska Kearney.....	1-6	
Nebraska Kearney.....	10-16	10-16	Northeastern State.....	6-21	3-15				Southwest Baptist.....	1-10	
Central Oklahoma.....	11-16	4-14	Lincoln.....	10-16	2-15				Lincoln.....	0-8	

y- Clinched MIAA Regular Season Championship
x- Clinched Spot in MIAA Tournament

Feb. 28, 2019

Career reaches end for trio of seniors

TUCKER QUINN
Chief Reporter | @Tuck_Quinn

For three seniors on the Northwest women's basketball roster, it has come down to the final competitive moments of their careers as Bearcats and for them, the road to the present hasn't been an easy one.



When senior night occurred Feb. 26 against conference-rival Missouri Western, Northwest (7-19, 3-9 MIAA) honored three seniors who have been through multiple coaching changes, experienced roller-coaster-like seasons and battled injuries along the way.

Forwards Maria Dentlinger and Kaylani Maiava and guard Mallory McAndrews were honored at center court, accompanied by their families, standing in front of the Northwest faithful at Bearcat Arena one last time. In 233 combined games played between the three athletes for the Bearcats, it all came down to one more home game in Maryville.

"I've been very thankful to have them in year No. 1 for me," coach Austin Meyer said. "For Maria and Mallory to be part of the program for four years and to come into the gym every day with great attitudes says a lot about what we've got here."

Boys continue trek through postseason

MADDISYN GERHARDT
Missourian Reporter | @maddigerhardt

With two back-to-back postseason wins against the Lathrop Mules and the St. Pius X Warriors, the Maryville boys basketball team came into the week with a headstrong approach to continuing their postseason run.



The Spoofhounds had a tough fight against the Mules but eventually came out on top with a final score of 55-45 Feb. 21. While this game was important for future district play, their eyes were set on their next matchup against a strong and well-rounded district rival in St. Pius X.

"It woke us up a little bit. If you don't take everything as seriously as possible, then you could lose any time," coach Matt Stoecklein said.

Only a day after beating Lathrop (18-4) game, the Spoofhounds (23-2) battled St. Pius X and came out with a final score of 74-57, adding roughly 17 more points to their final score compared to their first matchup against the 17-7 Warriors.

Since then, Maryville has done nothing but prepare for its Class 3 State Tournament run against an array of difficult opponents, the first of which is St. Michael the Archangel High School coming in with a season record of 14-10.

"They have a lot of shooters, so we've been watching a lot of film. Whatever we think they're going to do, we're going to get ready for it," Stoecklein said. "It's definitely a game that we could lose, but we've got to be ready."

As the Spoofhounds continue their postseason campaign against such competitive opponents, their first game of the Class 3 State Tournament is against the St. Michael the Archangel Guardians Feb. 27. The Guardians are coming into the game with a season record of 14-10 and are seen as just another stepping stone on the Spoofhounds' way to state.

"No matter who the opponent is, we're always going to prepare for them," junior guard Jaden Hayes said. "Even though their record's not the best, they're here for a reason, so we're not going to look past it."

With the Guardians playing



AMANDA WISTUBA | NW MISSOURIAN

Northwest women's basketball fell to Missouri Western 66-56 Feb. 26. Northwest travels to Washburn Feb. 28 to take on the Ichabods for their final conference game of the season.

McAndrews is tied for the fourth most threes (139) made in Northwest women's basketball history. Dentlinger played her 100th career game for the Bearcats against the Griffons, while Maiava played in her 50th career game.

While the three seniors didn't get the chance to be a part of the Meyer era of Northwest women's basketball for very long, Meyer likes to think they laid the foundation for the future.

"These girls have trusted me coming in as a first-year guy, bought into what we are trying to do and just bring it every day while being a

good person," Meyer said. "They're great kids, and I hope they know that had a part in selling Northwest to the future of our program."

As postseason play is out of the conversation for Northwest, Dentlinger is trying to finish with a competitive mindset to help the Bearcats end their ten-game winning drought.

"The season obviously hasn't gone exactly how we had hoped," Dentlinger said. "I think the program is making huge strides toward the future, and it would be great if we could go out with a couple wins."

Putting wins and losses aside,

this Northwest women's team chemistry has been notably higher than many other seasons in the past, according to Dentlinger. She has created memories that will last a lifetime in her Bearcat basketball uniform.

"We are an undeniably close team," Dentlinger said. "Hanging out in hotels and playing games on the bus will definitely be memories I take with me after leaving here."

Northwest's final game of the 2018-19 will come Feb. 28 in Topeka, Kansas, as the Bearcats take on Washburn. During the first meeting between the two schools

UP NEXT

Northwest vs Washburn
5:30 p.m. Feb. 28
Topeka, Kan.

in Bearcat Arena, the Ichabods left with a 21-point victory. Washburn is tied for second place in the MIAA conference.


"We want to come out, compete and play with energy while being into the game," Meyer said.

"That's all the more I can ask of them."



MADI NOLTE | NW MISSOURIAN

Maryville boys basketball is working as a team to build on its 23-2 record as it advances further into postseason play.



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Limit of 150 students

Hosted by Lead Green

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Freshman Omar Austin ran a 45.9 split in the men’s 4-x-400 meter relay, helping Northwest win the event at the MIAA Championships Feb. 24.

ANDREW WEGLEY | NW MISSOURIAN

Bearcats show out in conference meet

Culture shift evident after indoor season

ANDREW WEGLEY
Sports Editor | @andrew_wegley21

As the final day of the MIAA Championship neared its end Feb. 24, Northwest track and field’s men’s 4-x-400 relay team prepared to take the track for the last race of the day. As they did so, the relay squad was battered and exhausted after three days of competition.

Junior Marcus Klein won the long jump less than 20 minutes before leading off the men’s 4-x-400, and he was understandably tired when he took the track.

Senior Kevin Schultz, the relay’s third leg, took the top spot in the men’s heptathlon the day before and placed first in the long jump just a few hours ahead of the race. Sophomore Caelon Harkey and freshman Omar Austin each ran in both the men’s 200-meter and 400-meter races in the hours leading up to the relay.

In short, the group was not well-rested. And the first leg of the relay put them in a suboptimal position to win the race. By the time Schultz handed the baton to Austin for the relay’s final 400 meters, Lincoln and Central Missouri had a sizeable lead on the Bearcats, and the gap seemed



too large for the freshman to overcome, until, of course, he did.

“To just run them down like that, it took a lot from me,” Austin said. “Knowing we were behind like that, I knew I had to go give my all. I know some of my boys, they were tired, but I had to give my all for them.”

In giving his all, Austin closed the gap, helping the Bearcats earn the win with a time of 3:12.16. In doing so, Northwest edged out Central Missouri by just over a 10th of a second, set a program record for the event and automatically qualified for the NCAA Division II Championship.

“Coming down that finish line, I gave everything I got,” Austin said. “I can honestly say I didn’t hold nothing back. I gave everything. When I crossed that line, it felt good to see that we PR’d, that we (automatically qualified), to see that I helped my team get first place.”

The moment served as an exclamation point on what was an exciting weekend for Northwest. The first place finish in the 4-x-400 secured a second place overall finish for the men’s team at the conference meet.

A year after finishing the MIAA meet with just 33 points and a ninth place finish, the Northwest men finished with 115 points, just six

UP NEXT

NCAA Indoor Championships

Mar. 8-9

Pittsburg, Kan.

points behind Central Missouri’s first-place total of 121.

Austin, Harkey, Schultz and Klein all had an impact on the way the Bearcats finished, both individually and together.

“They gave their all,” Austin said of his teammates’ performance. “Marcus didn’t get off to a good start, but I know he still fought. Caelon fought, did what he did. Kevin did what he did to fight. I can’t take all the credit for playing catch-up, ‘cause I know they ran their butts off. I just finished it off for them. I got them the win that they deserved.”

While Austin found himself at the center of some of the weekend’s most captivating moments; Schultz was the meet’s highest point scorer. In all, the senior walked away with a win in the heptathlon, a first-place 2.14-meter high jump and a shared victory in the relay.

SEE **TRACK** | A9

ANDREW WEGLEY

Sports Editor

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When former Northwest track and field coach Scott Lorek announced his retirement amid uncertain circumstances last May, and assistant coach Emily Peterson stepped away from coaching, the future of the program was unclear.

Lorek’s last season had just come to an anti-climatic end. The men’s team finished eighth in the MIAA Outdoor Championships, while the women finished sixth.

The Bearcats fared even worse in Lorek’s last indoor season, as the men limped to a ninth-place finish at the 2018 indoor conference meet while the women ended more than 100 points out of first. The program, as a whole, found itself at a crossroads without a leader to guide them forward.

Enter Brandon Masters, and with him, Nick Gibson.

The two coaches entered the fray in August, and since then, the attitude and outlook surrounding

Northwest cross country and track and field has changed.

Last weekend, the men’s indoor team finished second at the MIAA championship meet, falling short of a first-place finish by only six points. The women took sixth, finishing four points shy of a top-five finish, which was the team’s goal entering the season.

Just six months after Masters and Gibson took over, the team is competing with more tenacity and swagger than they ever did in the later years of Lorek. When asked how he and Gibson turned the program around in a half-year, Masters’ response was predictable, yet it felt genuine.

“Culture,” Masters said. “That’s it.”

The term “culture” tends to be overused at Northwest and throughout Maryville. Every program’s coach claims their team has culture, but not every team’s record and progress proves so. The rapid progress Northwest track and field has made over such a short time is tangible proof of a changed culture.

SEE **COLUMN** | A9

Coach speaks on resignation, district stays quiet

TUCKER FRANKLIN
Assistant Sports Editor | @thereal_tuckerf

When the Maryville wrestling team took to the mats in Columbia, Missouri for the Class 2 state wrestling tournament at Mizzou Arena Feb. 14-16, the Spoofhounds were without their core of coaches.



The Maryville R-II Board of Education accepted the immediate resignation of Maryville wrestling coach Kody Koster during its Feb. 20 meeting after suspending him and assistant coach Riley Klein, barring the duo from attending the state tournament.

The incident resulting in Koster and Klein’s suspension took place while the Spoofhounds were competing at the Class 2 District 14 tournament in Excelsior Springs Feb. 8-9.

Koster told the Maryville Forum that Klein went to get alcohol for the two of them when the student-athletes were at the pool.

“During the time when we were swimming, Riley went and grabbed a six-pack of Busch Light,” Koster said to The Forum. “He asked me what I wanted. I’m not a big beer drinker so I said, ‘Just get me a little bottle of whiskey, and I’ll have a nightcap.’”

After swimming, the team then went to Dairy Queen for dinner. Koster made it clear there was no consumption of alcohol before or

during the trip to dinner.

Before the two coaches started drinking, they surveyed the students’ rooms making sure all athletes were present. When the coaches came upon the one female room, with one female manager and one female wrestler, the manager was on a phone call and the female wrestler went and waited in the coaches’ room for her roommate’s phone call to end, according to The Forum.

“She came into our room for about 20 minutes, and she might have seen something. I don’t think she did, but she might have,” Koster said to The Forum. “She never confronted us about anything. (Superintendent Becky Albrecht, Assistant Superintendent Steve Klotz, and Activities Director Mat Beu) said because we had let her into the room and we had alcohol in there, that was kind of the biggest deal.”

Koster made it clear to The Forum that, by his evaluation, the students were never put into danger of any sort by him or his staff.

“There was no endangerment to the kids at all with us doing that,” Koster said. “It just bugs me because they don’t hold the same standard to everybody. ... But we were guilty before we even got to say that we were not guilty. They took the parent’s side before they even wanted to hear our side of the story.”

SEE **KOSTER** | A9



Maryville wrestling coaches Kody Koster (right) and Riley Klein (left) were suspended for the Class 2 State Wrestling tournament Feb. 14-16. Koster has since resigned.

ANDREW WEGLEY | NW MISSOURIAN